

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On Page 5, please insert the following sentence at the end of the page:

FIGURE 7 is a block diagram illustrating multiple switching systems of FIG. 2A and their respective interconnect hubs being connected together.

On Page 9, please amend the paragraph in lines 24-30 as follows:

In this embodiment, interconnect hub 14 is a $\frac{3}{4}$ ATR, 36 port box at the center of the system, and ties together all of the ACDs 16 in the system. Multiple interconnect hubs 14 may be tied together to provide additional flexibility or survivability if desired. It should be understood the interconnect hubs 14 of other sizes may also be used. An example for multiple interconnect hubs connected together is depicted with respect to of FIG. 7.